

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jenkins, et al
For : "Core Computer Unit"
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Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT – REISSUE OF 5,999,952

Sir:

Please amend original claim 1 as follows:

1.(Amended) A core computer unit comprising in combination a completely enclosed housing, internal core components in said housing, and an external core connector, said internal core components comprising, except for a display, all of the components of a conventional computer, including internal non-volatile mass storage [means], all in electrical connection with said external core connector, wherein said internal components are not removable, said core computer unit having power connection means via said external core connector for electrical connection to an enclosure, without attachment to said enclosure said core computer unit is dormant and non-functional as a computer, [said core computer unit not originally a component of a computer but a free standing unit originally not part of a computer], with said electrical connection said core computer unit

supplying any desired computer function dictated by a plurality of different enclosures, said core devoid of any peripheral ports but having means to cooperate with said enclosure to supply a computer function to peripherals which are only in direct communication with said enclosure, [said core computer unit having means to retain stored information even when separated from said enclosure, said stored information usable in said core computer unit with said plurality of different enclosures, said external core connectors having means adapted to cooperate with a connector in said enclosure to provide said electrical connection between said core computer unit and said enclosure, and wherein all of said internal core components in said core housing are completely enclosed therein and may not be removed,] said core computer unit having means to be used interchangeably with a plurality of different type and [structured] enclosures [and not being a removable or replacement portion or component of a computer].

Please add the following new claims 9-12.

9.(New) A computer system comprised of essentially a first component and a second component, said first component comprising a core computer unit, wherein said core computer unit comprises a substantially sealed enclosure containing therein all the elements of a general purpose computer, said elements including a processor, volatile and non-volatile storage, main board, I/O controller, video controller and audio controller, such that said elements may not be removed, said core computer unit devoid of system power, said core computer unit possessing a single interface connector for interfacing with said second component, said second component possessing a reciprocal connector for communicating electrically with and supplying power to said first component, said second component comprising an enclosure for encasing and receiving said first

component, and for providing a peripheral based interface to the computer system created by joining said first component and second component, said enclosure taking the form of a variety of different computer powered electrical devices wherein said core computer unit is not originally an integral part of said devices, but rather is capable of providing the computing power to said devices and further wherein said first component and said second component are both completely inoperative as a computer unless mated.

10.(New) A computer system comprising:

a core computer module comprising a sealed housing, a computer motherboard containing essentially all the components of a general purpose computer system, said components including a CPU, volatile and non-volatile storage, I/O controller, audio controller and video controller, wherein said motherboard and said components are disposed inside said housing and are not removable by a user;

a first connector on said module for receiving electrical power and conveying information;

a structure, said structure defining a physical interface;

a second connector on said structure for providing electrical interconnect to said module; said structure substantially encases said module and provides the physical interface to the computer system created by mating said module with said structure;

wherein neither said structure nor said enclosure are operative as a computer unless mated;

further wherein said structure may be one of a plurality of different structures each of said structures mating with said core module through said second connector and each of said structures relying on said core module to provide computer processing power.

11.(New) A core computer module, the module comprising:

a sealed housing;

a computer motherboard containing essentially all the components of a general purpose computer system, said components including a CPU, volatile and non-volatile storage, I/O controller, audio controller and video controller, wherein said components are disposed inside said housing;

a connector on said module, disposed on one face of said housing for receiving electrical power and conveying information between said core computer module and an enclosure, wherein said core computer module is devoid of any other connectors or peripheral ports interfaces, and said core computer module is further inoperative as a computer unless mated an enclosure, wherein said module may be mated with a variety of different enclosures, said mating facilitated by said connector.

12.(New) A core computer module for use with a plurality of enclosures, said core module comprising:

all the internal components of a conventional computer excluding peripheral interface components;

an external core connector that allows the components of said core unit to cooperate with said enclosures;

wherein said core module is a completely enclosed module, devoid of any peripheral connector ports with only a single connector disposed on one face for electrical communication with any one of said plurality of enclosures;

and wherein said core module and said enclosures do not function as a computer unless mated.

REMARKS

Applicant asserts that the newly submitted claims are written to clarify the claims of the patent and that no new matter was introduced by the additional claims. There is full disclosure for the above claims in the specification and none of the matter presented in the new claims was done to recapture original matter which was cancelled by amendment during original prosecution.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Enclosed applicant as supplied PTO form 1449 with prior art believed by applicant to be relevant to his disclosure. The prior art includes Nelson et al, U.S. 5436857 (herein after Nelson), Wallsten, WO 92/18924 (herein after Wallsten), and Flint et al, U.S. 5608608 (herein after Flint).

Nelson et al, U.S. teaches a computer module which is used with a desktop and portable (laptop) base unit. The functional components of the computer are divided between the interchangeable module and the base units, such that the module containing a processor memory and disk can be removed from the desktop base unit, taken away from the location of the desktop base unit, and inserted into a portable base unit. In this manner, information stored in the hard disk of the desktop base unit will be available in the portable or other desktop base units and visa versa. The system Nelson differs from that of the present invention in that the functional components are divided between the module and the base unit where as the system of the present invention has all the functional components of a computer except for the interface. Therefore, all controllers and other hardware are in the core of the present invention. Nelson divides these

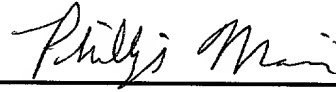
components, Col. 2, lines 22-24. Additionally, Nelson's module is not a sealed module as taught by the present invention. Nelson's module allows selective removal of components, Col. 3, lines 26-28. Finally, Nelson's module is specifically for use with computer base units (Abstract lines 1-4) whereas the present invention, because it contains all the internal components of a fully functional PC, can be used with an unlimited number of devices, as discussed in the specification, to provide computer power to those devices.

Wallsten also discloses a module based computer system. The system of Wallsten utilizes a computer system comprised of two inter-connectable parts, a detachable module and a docking station, wherein the module consists a CPU, memory and disk, and the docking station consists of a power supply, electronic components for driving the peripheral equipment such as monitor and keyboard, printer. The module is designed to be portable between and dockable in different docking stations such that when the two are joined together they form an integral unit. The system of Wallsten differs from that of the present invention in that it is only a module which works with a computer docking station. Wallsten does not anticipate or render obvious the module of the present invention which can be mated with a variety of different electronic devices to provide computing power to those devices. Furthermore, Wallsten is silent on whether the module itself is a sealed enclosure.

Flint teaches a computer system comprised of a cartridge and a plurality of user interface modules (chassis'). The cartridge itself contains a processor, memory coupled to a bus and a slot for a card, such as a communications card, such that the module can

take on at least a first and second form. This differs from the module of the present invention which is a sealed case, not permitting changes to be made to the module.

Respectfully Submitted,



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